

Message Text

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70

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 IGA-02 PC-15 USIA-15 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1328

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SWEL, ML

SUBJ: IMMEDIATE RELIEF MALI NOMADS

REF: GENEVA 4396

1. MISSION RECEIVED FOR ITS INFO COPY OF AUGUST 21 LETTER QUOTED BELOW (WITH OMISSION UNNECESSARY WORDS) FROM ROBERT PIERPONT, LICROSS UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL, TO SAMUEL KRAKOW, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ARC. ACCORDING PIERPONT, LETTER WRITTEN AS RESULT INFO FURNISHED AUG. 21 BY DR. GENTILS, FORMER LICROSS REP IN MALI WHO JUST ARRIVED GENEVA. WHILE MISSION UNABLE ASSESS CONTENTS LETTER, BELIEVE IT MERITS DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION IN VIEW LICROSS REPUTATION FOR RESPONSIBILITY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE.

PRIOR RECEIPT YOUR 15 AUGUST LETTER CONCERNING DROUGHT IN MALI WE WERE CONTACTED BY MARTIN OF U.S. MISSION TO UN IN GENEVA ON SAME SUBJECT. AT THAT TIME WE POINTED OUT LEAGUE NO LONGER HAD RELIEF DELEGATE IN MALI AND OUR CONTACTS WITH THE MALI RED CROSS NOW HANDLED DIRECTLY FROM GENEVA OR THROUGH OUR DELEGATE IN UPPER VOLTA.

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3. QUOTE. WE SHOULD LIKE POINT OUT MALI RED CROSS HAS ASSIGNED 12 NURSES TO THE TIMBUKTO AND GAO AREA, AND FURTHER MALI RED CROSS APPEARS BE ONLY ORGANIZATION MAKING ANY EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION TO DROUGHT STRICKEN POPULATION. IT IS INDEED REGRETABLE REPORTS REACHING US INDICATE THAT HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FOODSTUFFS CHANNELLED THROUGH UN SOURCES TO GOVERNMENT, AND CARRIED BY US AIRCRAFT ARE BEING SOLD AND NOT DISTRIBUTED. FOOD CONSIGNED TO RED CROSS IS, HOWEVER, REACHING AFFECTED PEOPLE.

4. QUOTE. IT IS OF LITTLE AVAIL TO GIVE MEDICAL CARE TO STARVING CHILDREN WHEN THEY NEED PROTEIN ENRICHED FOOD. OUR DELEGATES IN DROUGHT AREA STATE MISERY OF UNDERNOURISHMENT HERE FAR EXCEEDS ANYTHING SEEN IN BIAFRA. WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN REALLY ASSISTING IN MALI IT SHOULD CONSIDER AIRLIFTING FOOD SUPPLIES TO THE MALI RED CROSS AND WE TRUST YOU WILL USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE YOU CAN TO BRING THIS ABOUT. END QUOTE.

BASSIN

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